(b) having seen through over invoice and under invoice devices by exporters, what is the hurdle for specific or specific plus advalorem duty free licence scheme;

(c) whether decentralisation of duty free licences is fully worked out; and

(d) whether the Zonal and Regional Licencing Committees would be permitted to issue series of licences to the same parties repeatedly with the consequences that above Licensing Committees may comulatively bypass the fixed ceiling limits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Under Duty exemption scheme the import of all raw materials, intermediates, components, consumables, parts, accessories, packing materials and Computer Softwares (except prohibited items) required for direct use in the product to be exported, are allowed duty free for processing and export. In this scheme, no distinction is made between the items importable on specific or specific plus advalorem rate of custom duty.

(c) The work for grant of duty free licences has been decentralised as per the Financial powers delegated to competent authorities indicated in Chapter VII of the Handbook or Procedures Vol.-I, 92-97 (Revised Edition: March, 1994).

(d) The Zonal and Regional Licensing Committees may recommend the issue of duty free licences within their delegated financial powers and issue of series of licences linked with specific export order is permissible as per the existing policy and procedures.

Negative subsidy on agricultural products under market intervention

3691. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural products under Market Intervention experienced negative subsidy during the reference period (1986-89) of GATT proposals;

(b) if so, the details of crops covered under Market Intervention; and

(c) the details of their total value and the amount of negative subsidy incurred thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) During the reference period, India had market price support programmes for 22 products, out of which 19 were included in the List of Commitments. There relatively minor crops, viz. ragi, safflower and sunflowerseed were not included, because due to inadequacy of data it was not possible to calculate the base product specific Aggregate Measurement of Support, (AMS). Out of the 19 products AMS was positive in respect of Tobacco and sugar cane. The product specific AMS for 17 items which were indicated negative in

the Schedule of Commitments are given below:

Basic Product	Product specific AMS-Average 1986-89 (Rs. Million)
Rice	– 77235
Wheat	– 89880
Bajra	– 6822
Jawar	– 16454
Maize	– 12517
Barley	– 4203
Gram	– 4945
Ground nut	20494
Rape seed / Toria	– 8694
Cotton	– 14543
Soyabean (Yellow) / Soyabean (black)	– 16
Urad	– 1394
Moong	– 1752
Tur	– 4550
Jute	– 3833

The total value of agricultural output during the reference period was as under :—

Rs. Million

Value of agricultural output	Rs. Million
1986-87	975420
1987-88	1089020
1988-89	1329390
Average	
1986-89	1133250

Increasing incidence of accidents in mines

@3692. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that incidence of accidents in mines are increasing:

(b) whether any study has been conducted for latest safety measures in mines in other countries; and

(c) what steps have been taken to introduce these safety measures in the mines in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. This is being done on a continuing basis.

(c) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The Safety laws are amended from time to time to introduce, inter-alia. some of the advanced safety provisions of other countries found relevant in Indian conditions, ILO Conventions and Codes of practices etc. During 1990, the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 were comprehensively amended. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the managements for improving safety measures. Whenever there is transfer of technology from other countries, the associated Safety practices are also introduced.

Apart from the legislative measures, the Government are taking/supporting following measures/initiatives:

(i) holding of periodic Conferences on safety in mines;

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 3479, transferred on 18th March, 1994.